



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Homeland Defense Update

More than 6,500 National Guard soldiers and airmen available in Wisconsin

The return of about 400 Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers and airmen from the Hurricane Katrina relief mission in Louisiana over the weekend increases the number of Guard soldiers and airmen available in the state who are readily accessible in the event of state emergencies or to support homeland defense or security missions. The Wisconsin Guard's continued capability to respond to domestic emergencies was amply demonstrated earlier this month with the Guard's short-notice deployment of more than 450 soldiers and airmen to support hurricane relief efforts in Louisiana.

There are currently 6,506 soldiers and airmen of the Wisconsin National Guard available in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Guard has been actively involved in the global war on terror since the morning of September 11, 2001. Since that time, about 70 percent of the Guard's soldiers and airmen have served on active duty either at home or overseas. Most of these 6,600-plus soldiers and airmen have completed their active duty missions and are back in Wisconsin serving with their Army and Air National Guard units.

Wisconsin's available resources include the National Guard's 500-soldier Rapid Reaction Force, which is capable of responding on short notice anywhere in Wisconsin with an initial force of 125 soldiers, and 375 additional soldiers available within 24 hours to sustain operations as long as required.

Of the Wisconsin National Guard's 9,450 current members, there are about 2,920 serving on active duty for federal missions and approximately 40 others who continue Wisconsin's support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in Louisiana. The Guard's remaining soldiers and airmen are available in Wisconsin and are fully capable of responding to homeland security or defense missions anywhere in the state.

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